

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, I WAS WORKING SECOND TRICK
WHEN THE DISPATCHER CRIED OUT, "GET ME THE BOARD CLERK QUICK."

THE CALL BOY CAME ON, "HEY WHATS UP MAN"
CALL ME A CREW, JUST AS FAST AS YOU CAN."

"EVERYONES LAID OFF" HE STARTED TO EXPLAIN,
I COULDN'T RAISE ENOUGH MEN TO RUN A TOY TRAIN."

"O.K." SAID THE DISPATCHER, "THEN HERES WHAT WE DO...."
..ALTHOUGH WE'LL PROBABLY BE TIMESLIPPED BY THE U.T.U."

"YOUR CREW IS AS FOLLOWS..." HE TOOK A SLIGHT PAUSE,
...FOUR ELVES, EIGHT REINDEER AND A HOGHEAD NAMED CLAUS."
THEN HE ORDERED UP ENGINES, "GIVE 'EM FOUR OF OUR BEST,
AND USE THE CABOOSE OFF OF THAT DEAD FREIGHT WEST."

THE CREW ARRIVED, AND ASKED FOR THEIR TRAIN,
SHE'S ALL MADE UP ON THE OUTBOUND MAIN."

THEY MADE A QUICK AIR TEST, AND WERE THEN ON THEIR WAY.
WHAT" CRIED THE DISPATCHER, "NO TERMINAL DELAY"

MEANWHILE AT THE DEPOT, IN MY TELEGRAPH BAY
THOUGHT OF TOMORROW, IT WOULD BE CHRISTMAS DAY.

THE TRAIN ORDERS WERE HUNG IN THE HOOP RACK WITH CARE
I HOPE THAT THE "SPECIAL" SOON WOULD BE THERE.

WHEN SUDDENLY IN MY BLOCK LIGHT WHAT SHOULD APPEAR,
IT A MAINLINE LOCAL, WITH A FAT JOLLY ENGINEER.

I JUMPED UP FROM MY SEAT, AND RAN OUTSIDE QUICK,
COULD TELL BY HIS MARKERS IT MUST BE SAINT NICK.

WITH A NICE GENTLE STOP, HE PULLED UP ON THE MAIN
MADE A QUICK SET OUT AND COUPLED BACK ON HIS TRAIN.

TO SEE THIS CREW SWITCHING, WAS A COMICAL SIGHT,
IT I HEARD SANTA COMMENT, "WE'LL MAKE LOCAL PAY TONIGHT"

THEN LEANING OUT THE CAB WINDOW, HE CALLED ME BY NAME

"GET ME SOME TIME, ON 201'S TRAIN."

THEN GLANCING AT HIS WATCH HE MADE A SLIGHT FROWN

GAVE A TUG ON THE THROTTLE, AND WAS SOON OUT OF TOWN.

WELL HE MADE ALL HIS STOPS, RIGHT ON DOWN THE LINE

EVERYTHING RAN SMOOTHLY, ALL THE MEETS WORKED OUT FINE.

NOW TO MAKE THIS STORY JUST AS SHORT AS CAN BE

HE DELIVERED ENOUGH PRESENTS FOR EVERYONES TREE.

WHEN HE WAS THROUGH, HE RETURNED "CAB HOP"

PUT HIS ENGINES AWAY, AND THEN HE TIED UP

BUT I HEARD HIM EXCLAIM, AS HE PACKED UP HIS GRIP,

"I'LL TRAVEL MILWAUKEE ROAD, WHEN I MAKE NEXT YEARS TRIP."

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE, AND BEST WISHES FOR A

HAPPY AND HEALTHFUL NEW YEAR

ALLEN MILLER, 2ND TRICK TELEGRAPHER, KENT

END OF MSG